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Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 24 May 2004

To: Lamy Stall	From: Ashanti Ghee
Application/Control Number: 09/664,379	Art Unit: 2626
Fax No.: 202-530-1055	Phone No.: (703) 306-3443
Voice No.: 212-218-2100	Return Fax No.: (703) 872-9306
Re:	CC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> For Comment <input type="checkbox"/> For Reply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Per Your Request	

Comments:

Mr. Stall,

I apologize for the lateness of this correction. I did not receive the case from the warehouse until this today, Monday, May 24th. I have made the corrections. I see that you have already chosen Group I of the restriction. I will try to get an action back to you by Monday.

Cordially,

Ashanti Ghee

Number of pages 5 including this page

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-8, 18-25, 35-36, and 39-40, drawn to Image Processing involving Detail of image placement or content, classified in class 358, subclass 1.18.
 - II. Claims 9-12, 26-29, 37, and 41, drawn to Image Processing involving Data corruption or print prevention, classified in class 358, subclass 1.14.
 - III. Claims 13-17, 30-34, 38, and 42, drawn to Image Processing involving Page or frame memory, classified in class 358, subclass 1.17.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
3. Inventions Group I and Group II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the invention in regards to Group I discloses an information processing method and apparatus that determines the first mode that will print a first image on a first side of a second sheet and a second mode for printing that first image on the second side of a first sheet. The subcombination has separate utility such as having the second mode inhibit a cover image to be printed on different sides of a same sheet.

4. Inventions Group I and Group III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the invention in regards to Group I discloses an information processing method and apparatus that determines the first mode that will print a first image on a first side of a second sheet and a second mode for printing that first image on the second side of a first sheet. The subcombination has separate utility such as having to generate an image to be inserted between an image of the last page and an immediately preceding page based on the total number of pages acquired.

5. Inventions Group II and Group III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the invention in regards to Group II discloses an information processing method and apparatus that determines a first mode that allows a cover image and the body image to be printed on different sides of the same sheet and a second mode that inhibits the cover image and the body image to be printed on the different sides of the same sheet. The

subcombination has separate utility such as having to generate an image to be inserted between an image of the last page and an immediately preceding page based on the total number of pages acquired.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

8. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashanti Ghee whose telephone number is (703) 306-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and alt. Fri. (7-4PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ashanti Ghee
Examiner
Art Unit 2626



AG
April 21, 2004